

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Vol. 49, No. 1

www.laughlin.af.mil

Jan. 12, 2001

## the inside Scoop

### Force protection:

*The 47th Security Forces Squadron commander explains how SFS needs members' help to enhance base security...*

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### Keep an eye out:

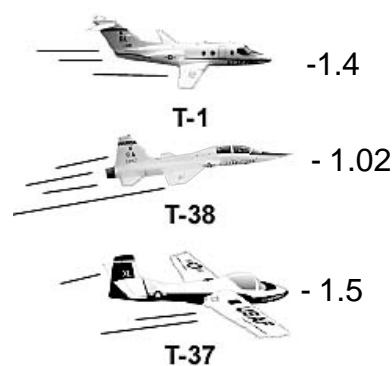
*The Health and Wellness Center and optometry clinic staff explain possible Glaucoma signs...*

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## Mission status

(As of Jan. 9)

Days ahead(+) or behind(-)



### Fiscal Year 2001 statistics

--Sorties flown: 16,703  
--Hours flown: 24,902.4  
--Pilot wings earned in FY 01: 72  
--Wings earned since 1963: 11,780

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## Base Family Child Care Program offers extended child care hours

By Sam Kyle

47th Services Division

The Laughlin Family Child Care Program is now offering extended child care hours and programs for base members needing extra child care.

Laughlin's Extended Child Care Program assists military families working extended hours by increasing the hours of care available in Air Force licensed Family Child Care homes.

The Extended Child Care Program provides services beyond the standard 50 hours of care that families are already purchasing in child care programs on base. The program also offers care in FCC homes beyond the standard 10-hour child care day or 5-day work week.

The Extended Child Care Program offers the following different types of care:

- On-base mission-related duty.
- Extended duty days.
- Temporary shift changes.
- Rapid mobilization.
- Deployment.

To be Eligible for this program, at least one parent must be a member of the U.S. military service; active duty;



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Andrew Curtis White, 4, demonstrates his painting skills to Maggie Weyer, family care provider, at her home Tuesday. Weyer currently provides care for three children.

Reserve or Guard member on active duty; dual employed (married to civilian employee).

To enroll for the Extended Child Care Program, the following items are required:

- The parent must obtain written verification from his or her supervisor stat-

ing that he or she may need to work beyond the 40-hour work week or may experience temporary shift changes.

- Identify the anticipated need for extended child care to the FCC coordinator.

- Arrange an interview with the FCC

See 'Care,' page 9

## Team XL returns safe, healthy from holiday season

By Col. Herbert Foret, Jr.

47th Flying Training Wing vice commander

Team XL met the challenges of the holiday season, had a great time, and returned safe and healthy to Laughlin.

I acknowledge and recognize the efforts of commanders, first line supervisors, and every Team XL member, military and civilian.

Before we departed for the long holiday, we asked all our folks to think through what they were going to do, minimize the risks, take care of each other, and return to work fit and ready. We did exactly that. You all have my total

thanks.

I would like to remind all personnel that we are just entering what has historically been a period of excessive mishaps, both on the ground and in the air. The Wing started year 2001 with safety meetings and a "return to basics" approach. Regardless what you do on the team, each member is reminded to exercise discipline and follow the rules. The rules are there to keep each one of us safe. As our wing commander stated, "Returning to your home safe and sound every night after successfully completing our mission is priority one." Let's continue to do just that.

# Commanders' Corner

## Force protection: *Security forces need help to keep Laughlin a safe place*

By Maj. Joel Dickinson

47th Security Forces Squadron

Who do you depend on to provide force protection? If your answer is security forces, you may be missing the point. It's exactly the other way around. We depend on you!

Do you realize that here at Laughlin there are only six or seven security forces members on duty at any given time dedicated to force protection? That's for the whole base, all the aircraft – and most importantly – all our people. That's what the Air Force has authorized us.

Of course, security forces is the focal point for force protection, but the issue is that without the help of every member of Team XL, proper and effective force protection cannot be accomplished.

Wrapping your arms around force protection is not an easy thing to do. Force protection requires a multi-disciplined approach. I had the honor of being assigned to the Force Protection Battlelab before becoming the security forces commander here. Then Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Ronald Fogelman, stood up the six battlelabs out of frustration with the length of time the Air Force acqui-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Airman 1st Class Erin Jacobi, 47th Security Forces Squadron, works as a dispatcher as part of her duty while working at the law enforcement desk. Members working the desk respond to calls placed by base members needing SF assistance.

tion process takes to get requirements in the hands of the operators.

In a capsule, Battlelab's attempt was to find innovative ways to quickly solve material, doctrinal, procedural or training needs for the Air Force in the force protection arena.

There's much more to it, but

that's another article. The point is that the Chief felt FP was so important he decided that one, out of only six battlelabs, should focus exclusively on FP. We staffed the twenty some odd authorized positions in a way that may surprise you. A majority are SF officers and noncommis-

sioned officers. No big surprise there, but we also had the following specialties on staff: micro biologist officer, flight surgeon, CE EOD officer, CE Structural Engineer, a communications officer and NCO, an OSI officer, a CE Readiness NCO, a pararescue NCO, an analytical scientist (I think, I never could understand that guy), an AF reserve fighter pilot, contractors from Sandia Labs as well as a group of contractors that specialize in computer modeling and simulation.

That's the staff and expertise USAF/XOF (Top Cop) thought was necessary to focus properly on FP. It proved to be a great mix. The interaction, the trading of thoughts of such a diverse collection of hand picked specialists, was mind expanding. We were able to break out of our own mindsets and view FP from a much larger and wider point of view. This mix of folks also allowed us to consider FP from a totally different perspective than we were accustomed to.

My point in illustrating this concept is to let you know how, at Air Force level, force protection is currently being addressed. It is also how we here at Laughlin should

**See 'Force,' page 9**

Col. Jack Egginton

Commander

Capt. Angela O'Connell

Public affairs officer

Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Editor

The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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indicated.

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News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be E-mailed to: [bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil) or [reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil)

***"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."***

– 47 FTW motto



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Tech Sgt. Robinson shows off the stripe she earned under the STEP program.

## One STEP ahead

Tech. Sgt. Sherri Robinson, 47th Mission Support Squadron was promoted to her current rank Dec. 19 under the Stripes To Exceptional Performers Program.

The STEP program gives wing commanders a means to promote exceptional performers who have not been selected under the Weighted Airman Promotion System. The program leans toward promoting deserving, hard-working members who are behind their peers when comparing years of service and time in grade.

"I am very grateful to be promoted to technical sergeant," said Tech Sgt. Robinson. "It is a wonderful feeling! I am a firm believer that hard work, dedication, patience and prayer pay off."

The 47th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant described Tech Sgt. Robinson as a hard-charging troop who has been performing exceptionally for years. "The STEP program recognizes exceptional performers and she is definitely that," said Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Enyeart. "She has been at the forefront for years, working hard to accomplish the tasks laid out before her. She is an exceptional member of Team XL."

## AF offers up to \$17,000 bonus for enlistment

The Air Force is offering an additional bonus for people enlisting into select career fields and reporting for active duty between now and Jan. 31.

This bonus is in addition to any standard enlistment bonus currently offered for those career fields.

Six-year enlistment bonuses for the Combat Control and Pararescue career fields, currently at \$12,000, will also offer a \$5,000 "kicker."

Other additional bonuses range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on the career field chosen and term of enlistment.

"This is a wonderful management tool for our recruiters out in the field," said Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. "It not only offers an additional monetary incentive for young people seeking an Air Force opportunity, but it also balances our training class seats available throughout the year."

The Air Force has opportunities in nearly 200 career fields, with special emphasis this year in mechanical and technical career fields, as well as officer opportunities.

People interested in knowing more about AF opportunities and should contact their local Air Force recruiter or log on to [www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com).

## T-37 accident investigation complete

The Air Force has completed its investigation of the Sept. 6, 2000, T-37A accident at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., that resulted in the death of the pilot.

The accident investigation found that while in the final turn for a touch-and-go landing the aircraft appeared to be overshooting the inside runway and the pilot rolled into a 70 to 90 degree bank to correct the overshoot. This steep bank exceeded the recommended 45 degree maximum angle of bank for T-37 aircraft.

The bank, combined with low airspeed, resulted in the T-37 apparently stalling and immediately entering a spin.

Due to low altitude of the stall and spin entry, the pilot could not recover or eject before ground impact.

The board noted radio calls from the runway supervisory unit controller were not standard for the traffic pattern and may have come too late to assist the pilot in recovering. They also noted the pilot had lost some training continuity due to recent illness.

The Accident Investigation Board was headed by Brig. Gen. Quentin L. Peterson, 97th Air Mobility Wing commander, from Altus AFB, Okla.

(Courtesy AETCNS)

(Courtesy AETCNS)

## Actionline

Call 298-5351

a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of



Col. Jack Egginton  
47 FTW commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

# Little Rock NCO's idea worth thousands

By Staff Sgt. Olenda M. Kleffner  
314th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Christmas came early for one NCO at Little Rock AFB, Ark. when she learned she'll receive nearly \$7,000 for an idea she submitted to the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program.

Staff Sgt. Michelle Seveyka, Detachment 4, 373rd Training Squadron C-130 avionics instructor, will receive a check for \$6,697 for her idea to change the PD-5 tuning drive from an expendable item to a field-level repairable item, which will save the Air Force approximately \$45,000 a year.

"I thought it was silly that we were throwing away this \$478 part that only cost \$5 or \$10 to fix," said Seveyka. Besides only costing a few dollars to

fix, Seveyka also said it only takes about an hour or less to fix the PD-5.

Seveyka said she came up with the idea and started the supply part of the paperwork in 1996. In 1997, after supply had changed the code, she turned in her paperwork to the IDEA program.

"The reason it took so long is because it is a tangible benefit that had to go through a lot of people, a lot of different chains and a couple of different bases," said Seveyka.

Each agency in the coordination process had an allotted amount of time to review the package and propose any changes.

The IDEA program was reengineered in October 1997 to make it more convenient and more available to everyone who had an idea, said Debbie

Anderson, a base IDEA analyst.

Most of the ideas that don't require extensive research are approved or disapproved within two weeks of the submission, she added.

The new system allows members to submit their ideas through the IDEA Program Data System on the Internet, Anderson explained. "If they've never used it before, they can call their unit monitor or the (base) IDEA analyst for more detailed instructions on how to go about submitting an idea," she said.

This program is available to all military members (including those at Laughlin) to submit money-saving suggestions. For more information, check out [www.afmia.randolph.af.mil/afmia/mip/mipp/idea/idea.htm](http://www.afmia.randolph.af.mil/afmia/mip/mipp/idea/idea.htm).

(Courtesy AETCNS)

## Government travel card offers opportunities, responsibilities

By Capt. Edward Kreiner  
AETC Financial Services Division

As many people increased their credit card use during the holidays, they could also have used the season to become familiar with the opportunities and responsibilities available while carrying the individual government travel card.

The Nations Bank or Bank of America Visa card has proven to be a great benefit for members on temporary duty assignments. The card allows holders access to automated teller machines, and most travel expenses, such as lodging, rental cars, airline tickets

and meals, can be paid with the card.

Along with the benefits of the government travel card are responsibilities for proper use of the travel card. The card can only be used for official travel expenses, not for personal expenditures, and delinquent accounts may be identified to unit commanders for appropriate action.

Misuse of the travel card is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, so take the time to become familiar with some of the

more common abuses:

- Using the government travel card when not on official TDY assignment. The card is designed for use only when performing official duty on a TDY assignment.

- Improperly using the card while on a TDY assignment. The card cannot be used to purchase personal items

unrelated to the assignment.

- Failing to pay the balance on the due date. The card balance must be paid in full upon receipt of the monthly statement.

The government travel card can simplify prompt TDY payments by allowing the money to be

disbursed directly to the account, including interim settlements.

Additionally, the card gives holders the opportunity to pay for expenses incurred while on a TDY assignment without having to carry a large amount of cash.

The card is an excellent tool for the government traveler, and it can be extremely useful when members adhere to the basic responsibilities of not misusing or abusing it.

(Courtesy AETCNS)

***"The card can only be used for official travel expenses, not for personal expenditures, and delinquent accounts may be identified to unit commanders for appropriate action."***



Photo by Bonnie Powell

## Survivor star is commissary shopper

"Survivor" series celebrity and retired Navy SEAL Rudy Boesch stops to chat with Lt. Len Milliken and his daughter Natalie at Little Creek Commissary, Va.

When his celebrity doesn't interfere too much, Boesch shops

at the commissary nearly every day and enjoys shopping for his favorite foods and talking with commissary shoppers.

Milliken is an operational risk management instructor stationed at Norfolk Naval Base.



## From the Blotter (Dec. 18-28)



■ An individual reported someone had stolen \$450 from his flight fund at Bldg. 320. There were no suspects identified. An investigation is in progress.

■ A driver of a government vehicle struck a fence post near Bldg. 905 with his truck. Damages consisted of several scratches and a crack to the left rear taillight.

■ Three base facilities were found open by security forces patrols. After a search of the area the custodians were notified to secure the facilities.

■ Three people were assisted in gaining access to their vehicles. SF gained access without any damage to the vehicles.

■ The law enforcement desk received an alarm activation. SF immediate response determined all locations were secure.

**Tip of the day:** Please remember to lock up your valuables at all times. Most thefts are crimes of opportunity. Eliminate the temptation and you will not become a

statistic.

Base personnel must ensure they check their buildings before leaving for the day. Open doors or windows are an invitation for crime. Force protection is a team effort!

**Anti-terrorism tip of the day:** Individual protective measures are not only important for overseas travel, they're also essential at Laughlin.

Terrorist actions determine protective targets by their perceived level of importance, or by their association to a targeted group such as the Armed Forces.

Be unpredictable and avoid routines in daily activities. Secure vehicles, buildings, and all forms of identification.

Be aware of your surrounding. If something looks out of place or an activity appears suspicious, report it to the proper authorities. Don't attempt to handle it yourself.

## Question of the week

### What does Martin Luther King, Jr. Day mean to you?



"A man who stood and fought for equality of all citizens of a diverse America – a true symbol of freedom."

**Master Sgt.  
J.D. Donnett**  
47th Support Group



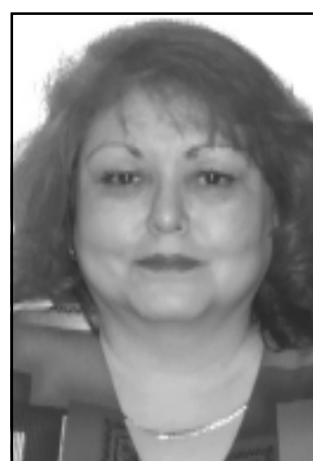
"He is one of the few who, regardless of the hate that was going on around him, didn't give in, but rather sought peaceful resolutions, which is difficult to do."

**Senior Airman  
David Reeves**  
47th Comptroller Flight



"Recognition of a great man who was also a great spiritual leader whose focus was equality for all and living in unity regardless of racial differences."

**Anthony McKinney**  
Family member



"It is a big step for recognizing the equality of all minorities."

**Olga Brown**  
47th Services Division

# Laughlin keeps an eye out for Glaucoma

**From the Health and Wellness Center and Optometry Clinic staffs**

*47th Medical Group*

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month.

According to the National Eye Institute, glaucoma is a group of diseases that can lead to damage to the eye's optic nerve and result in blindness. Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in African Americans.

Open-angle glaucoma, the most common form, affects about three million Americans – half of whom don't know they have it. But, over the years it can steal a person's sight. With early treatment, people can often protect their eyes against serious irreversible vision loss.

Glaucoma affects the optic nerve, which is actually a bundle of more than one million nerve fibers. It connects the retina, the light-sensitive layer of tissue at the back of the eye, with the brain.

Although anyone can get glaucoma, some people are at higher risk than others. They include:

- African-Americans over age 40.
- Everyone over age 60.
- People with a family history of glaucoma.
- People with diabetes.

There are no symptoms of open-angle glaucoma at first. Vision stays normal, and there is no pain. As glaucoma remains untreated, people may notice that although they see things clearly in front of them, they miss objects to the side and out of the corner of their eye.

High pressure puts one at risk for glaucoma. Whether or not he or she gets glaucoma depends on the level of pressure that their optic nerves can tolerate without being damaged.

To detect glaucoma, an eye care professional will most likely do the following tests:

**Visual acuity:** This eye chart test measures how well one sees at various distances.

**Visual field:** This test measures peripheral vision. It helps and eye care professional find out if somebody has lost side vision, which is a sign of glaucoma.

**Pupil dilation:** This gives a better view of the optic nerve to check for signs of damage.

**Tonometry:** This standard test determines the fluid pressure inside the eye.

Although glaucoma does not have a cure, treatment often can control it. This makes early diagnosis

and treatment important to protect a person's sight.

Most doctors use medications for newly diagnosed glaucoma; however, new research findings show that laser or conventional surgeries are safe and effective alternatives.

More information about glaucoma is available at the display areas set up at the XL Fitness Center and Health and Wellness Center throughout the month of January.

To schedule an appointment with the Optometry Clinic, call central appointments at 6356.

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To schedule an appointment with the Optometry Clinic, call central appointments at 6356.

**Safety belts save lives - so buckle up!**



## The *XLer*

**Hometown:** Decatur, Tenn.

**Family:** Single, never married.

**Time at Laughlin:** 9 months..

**Time in service:** 15 years.

**Name one way to improve life at**

**Laughlin:** Make the Child Development Center free to military members.

**Greatest accomplishment:** Professionally – promotion to master sergeant; Personally – completion of a bachelor's degree.

**Bad habit:** Junk food.

**Motto:** Accept the challenges so you may feel the exhilaration of victory.

**Favorite beverage:** Dr Pepper.

**Favorite food:** Steak.

**Hobbies:** Reading about history.

**If you could spend one hour with any historical figure, who would it be and why?**

Abraham Lincoln. He kept the country together during the Civil War with little help from other politicians.



**Master Sgt. James Moon**  
47th Flying Training Wing

## Where are they now?

**Name:** Capt. Paul Heitmeyer.

**Class/Date of graduation from Laughlin:** Class 98-07, April 1998.

**Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at:** F-15E, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

**Mission of your aircraft?**

The F-15E is a supersonic, all weather, multi-role fighter. It executes long range interdiction missions, delivering precision guided weapons day or night. Additionally the Strike Eagle performs the counter air mission, with all of the air-to-air capability of the F-15C Eagle.

**What do you like most about your current air-**

**craft?** The F-15E can employ any weapon anytime, anywhere. Hence, a great challenge.

**What do you dislike most about your current aircraft?** It needs more power. **What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly?**

Work hard, play hard.

**What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin?** Worst: Getting a surface-to-air hook on a pattern-only SPEEDO ride. Best: 3-way tie...T-38 formation solo. And, meeting my future wife.

**What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin?** Get a thick skin now – you'll need it!



## Laughlin's environmental team to be evaluated

**2nd Lt. Nathan Fennesbeck**  
47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Many of you may have noticed the environmental facts information column the past few weeks on the back page of this publication.

The reason for this heightened environmental awareness stems from the upcoming external Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program inspection coming to Laughlin Feb. 5-9.

Every two years, an Air Education and Training Command team inspects several of the base's environmental issues.

Laughlin environmental flight members have been preparing for this inspection for a number of months by working to close previous findings and performing staff assistance visits in various shops and storage areas across the base. Environmental compliance issues were not addressed in the recent Operational Readiness Inspection, so many view this inspection as the environmental "ORI".

Laughlin personnel and commanders have been very supportive in upholding the environmental stewardship we have as participants in the mission of the US Air Force. As we continue to safeguard the environment, we gain the confidence of the public in performing the base's pilot training mission while protecting the natural resources we are entrusted with.

As part of an environmental initiative called "XL Environment", Laughlin has created helpful fact sheets that address common questions posed by inspectors, a comprehensive list of Laughlin specific ECAMP findings dating back to 1994, and what one can expect during a visit for each of the 13 environmental areas. In addition, the environmental flight has been conducting environmental staff assistance visits to help base organizations get a "snapshot" in time of their environmental programs.

Thanks to a great base-wide team effort, Laughlin received numerous environmental awards including the best environmental flight in AETC during fiscal year 2000.

With your help, we expect to perform well for the upcoming ECAMP inspection.

If your organization is interested in an environmental staff assistance visit, call 4389.

### 'Care,' from page 1

coordinator to discuss child care needs, provider qualifications and program procedures.

■ Pick up the following required forms from the FCC coordinator's office:

a) AF Form 1181, Air Force Youth Flight Program Patron Registration.

b) AF Form 357, Family Care Certification (if applicable).

If completed forms are already on file at the CDC or FCC home, copies are acceptable.

■ Contact the FCC coordinator or stop by the Family Child Care office in Bldg. 25 to make specific reservations for the days and times care is needed.

■ Contact the FCC coordinator in case of short notice requirements during the week.

■ Make a reservation for the days and times care is needed by contacting Maggie Weyer at 298-7163 or Rolanda Roth at 298-0588.

■ With your child, visit the homes of the Family Care Provider where your child may receive care.

■ Sign a contract with the FCC provider detailing hours, fees and other specific information about your child.

Under special contract, the Air Force pays to have specified FCC homes available for parents who

For more information about enrolling for the Extended Child Care Program, call 5631.

need extended child care.

Parents currently using the CDC or School Age Program will pay a prorated per hour rate based on their current weekly fee not to exceed \$2 per hour. All other parents will pay \$2 per hour/per child for the Extended Child Care; the Air Force pays the remainder of the cost. Payment will be made to the CDC (not the provider).

Eligible Extended Child Care providers who have met all of the FCC Program criteria, have been a licensed Air Force FCC provider for a minimum of three months and possess at least a current standard license. The providers are current on FCC required training and are under contract for this special program.

The FCC Panel approves the providers who participate in this special program. The panel is composed of the deputy support group commander, Services commander or deputy, and the Family Member Programs flight chief.

The FCC Panel reviews and approves each provider's application, including training and home inspection documents.

Base legal, family advocacy, safety, fire, mental health, security forces and public health assist the panel. The panel selects the most qualified providers for this program.

### 'Force,' from page 2

address FP.

At Laughlin, we are doing pretty well working together. For instance, some of you may be aware that we recently instituted an AF-mandated, wing random antiterrorism measure program. The program requires organizations across the wing to accomplish actions that mirror some of our THREATCON actions at randomly selected times of day or night.

The actions are relatively simple and short in duration. The idea is to keep a potential adversary a bit off balance should they choose to target Laughlin.

Not taking Force Protection seriously can have severe consequences, aside from the needless loss of life or resources. Accountability is being taken seriously in the aftermath of an incident.

Note an article from the San Antonio Express News, Jan. 2, 2001, entitled "Panel finds lapses in gulf security." A primary point of the article focuses on the "possibility of disciplinary action against the USS Cole's captain or other officers and members of the crew" concerning whether "any measures could have been taken to avert the attack on the Cole and whether anyone in the chain of command should be held responsible."

As most of you are probably aware, there were serious career consequences to some senior leaders after the Kobar Towers investigation. You can bet that if an incident occurs, there will be in-depth scrutiny of what FP measures were in place, as well as how involved the chain of command was in FP planning and execution.

While probably not politi-

cally correct, I will say that in the past, FP usually got front line attention only after something went terribly wrong. I can tell you that post Kobar, FP programs and equipment funding went through the roof, relative to previous years. The same thing happened after the United States Marine Corps barracks bombing in Beirut.

With the recent attack on the USS Cole, there is another round of emphasis on FP issues, hopefully for the long term.

FP should be constantly considered in everything we do.

FP execution is relatively simple. Use common sense, be on the lookout for the unusual, (this includes the absence of the usual), know what specific FP requirements you are responsible for accomplishing, and work together.

If everyone keeps this mind set, Laughlin will be a safer place to live and work.

**Please recycle this newspaper.**



# Internet auctions: a guide for buyers, sellers

By Capt.

**Lucy H. Carrillo**

*47th Flying Training Wing  
Legal Office*

**W**hether you're looking for a collectible or thinking about selling that treasure you discovered in the attic, an Internet auction may be just the thing for you.

Since they first appeared in 1995, Internet auctions have become one of the hottest phenomena of the web. They offer buyers a "virtual flea market" with an endless range of merchandise from around the world – and they give sellers a "storefront" from which to market everything from sports memorabilia to computer systems to millions of international buyers.

Whether you're a buyer or a seller, there's a smart way to "do" Internet auctions. Here's how to make sure you get the most from your auction action.

Internet auctions are bazaars. In most cases, sellers offer one item at a time, but sometimes sellers offer multiple lots of the same item. The auction web sites often refer to auctions of multiple items as "Dutch" or "English" auctions. At some sites, the seller may be required to sell all items at the price of the lowest successful bid. At other sites, the seller is entitled to the prices bid by each of the highest bidders.

Occasionally, Internet auction sellers set a "reserve price," which is the lowest price they will accept for an item. Some sites disclose the reserve price during the auction.

The bidding for each auction closes at a scheduled time, when the highest bidder "wins." In the case of sales

of multiple lots, the participants with the highest bids at the close of the auction are obligated to buy the items. If no one bids at or above the reserve price, the auction closes without a "winner." At the close of a successful auction, the buyer and seller communicate – usually by e-mail – to arrange for payment and delivery of the goods.

Internet auctions can be business-to-person or person-to-person.

Operators of business-to-person auction sites have physical control of the merchandise being offered and accept payment for the goods. In person-to-person auctions, individual sellers or small businesses offer their items for auction directly to consumers. Generally, the seller – not the site – has physical possession of the merchandise. After the auction closes, the seller is responsible for dealing directly with the highest bidder to arrange for payment and delivery.

Buyers may have several payment options, including credit card, debit card, personal check, cashier's check, money order, cash on delivery and escrow services. However, all sellers do not accept all forms of payment.

Credit cards offer buyers the most consumer protections, including the right to seek a credit from the credit card issuer if the product is not delivered or if the product received isn't the product ordered. Typically, sellers using business-to-person auction sites accept payment by credit card. But many sellers in person-to-person auctions don't. Usually they require payment by cashier's check or money order before they send the item to the

winning bidder.

Some sellers agree to use an escrow service. For a fee – generally 5 percent of the cost of the item, paid by the buyer – an escrow service accepts payment from the buyer via check, money order or credit card.

The service releases the money to the seller only after the buyer receives and approves the merchandise. This helps protect buyers from ending up empty-handed after paying their money. The flip side? Using an escrow service can delay

the deal. As with any business transaction, investigate the escrow service's reputation before signing on to the service.

Occasionally, sellers agree to send items COD, with the buyer paying when

**See 'Buy,' page 14**

# Why I joined the Air Force; why I stayed



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Master Sgt. Gwen Herndon, 96th Flying Training Squadron, gets some work done at her office Tuesday as part of her Reservist duty.

**Name:** Master Sgt. Gwen Herndon.  
**Organization:** 96th Flying Training Squadron.

**Hometown:** Macon, Ga.

**Her story:** I am an Air Force Reservist. I am multi-talented and skilled. I do whatever needs to be done, regardless of the AFSC.

I lived in Georgia the first 27 years of my life. I moved with my now ex- husband (he was in the USAF) and three children to San Antonio in 1971.

In May 1975, I joined the USAFR at Kelly AFB as an aircraft electrical repairman for C-130 aircraft. I was the only woman in the shop. I was 30 years old when I joined the military. I was thrilled with the opportunity to learn new things and get paid for it. I became a recruiter in January 1978. I was on active duty as a recruiter until September 1985. I became a technical sergeant in 5 years. Recruiting was the best job I ever had in the military. I enjoyed educating people about the military. Recruiting was a way to offer opportunity and improvement to eligible people, and help strengthen our country.

I got off active duty in 1985 and sent my records to the Air Reserve Personnel Center. I took a break from the military. I was tired of some rules and regulations. I missed the camaraderie and the job opportunities right away. I realized right away I had made a mistake getting out of the military.

In 1988, I decided to go into the USAFR unit at Bergstrom AFB, Texas. I voluntarily took a stripe off and was a staff sergeant even though I had been a tech sergeant when I got out.

I then became a pavement and heavy equipment person. I enjoyed that job and got my 7-level quickly. Once again, I was the only woman in the shop. It was really fun operating heavy equipment. Shoveling and

screeding concrete was hard work. It made me glad the day was over. I always enjoyed the final results of a job well done.

Due to cut backs in career fields and contracting civilians to do some of the civil engineering jobs I went to personnel school and later information management to stay in the USAFR. I was fortunate to attend the last NCO Academy at Bergstrom AFB as the class leader. I was in the Reserve Unit at Bergstrom until we closed the base Sept 28, 1996. Most people were taking jobs elsewhere due to base closure. This gave me a great opportunity to accomplish many AFSC's that I did not hold.

I worked in the Post Office forwarding mail and sending return messages that the base was closing. I also did inventory/packing, loading and driving trucks to DRMO in San Antonio. As soon as the base was closed I was transferred to the 931 Air Refueling Group, Reserve unit at McConnell AFB, Kan. I was stationed there until I came to Laughlin May 1999.

I have enjoyed going to Alaska and Aviano Italy as a reservist. I am a professional reservist. That means I work almost every week on active duty. I work about 201 days a year as a reservist. The bad things that have happened in my career have given me training for overcoming things I don't like in the past and the future. I have learned from watching others and from my own mistakes. **Advice:** The military has been great for me. I think I will miss the military when I retire in 2004.

Young people should find a person they can ask questions and learn all they can.

I also recommend reading the Air Force Instructions that apply to the area that you work. It is amazing what you can learn when you read the instructions.



## Drops become gallons



# Martin Luther King Day a time to serve others

By Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

On Monday, people all over the nation will celebrate the life of a man who dedicated his life to fighting for a key democratic principle that is dear to all Americans – that all men are created equal.

In establishing Martin Luther King Jr. Day Nov. 2, 1986, former President Ronald Reagan cited some reasons for honoring Rev. King with this day as "... the majesty of his (King's) message, the dignity of his bearing and the righteousness of his cause." He pointed out that the establishment of this holiday plays an important part in recognizing those who worked on the civil rights movement and their importance in the history of our nation.

Always observed on the third Monday in January, the theme for Martin Luther King Jr. Day this year is Remember, Celebrate, Act: A Day On, Not A Day Off. This theme should be an encouragement to servicemembers to honor the Armed Services' commitment toward the treatment of all individuals," said Tech. Sgt. Keith Skoglund, military equal opportunity office NCOIC here.

"Ethnic observances such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day recognize the achievements of all American cultures," Sergeant Skoglund said. "These observances increase awareness, respect and understanding of the cultures among active duty members, civilians and their family members. It's important for commanders, first sergeants and supervisors to encourage involvement in ethnic observances, not just by those within the ethnic group being recognized, but among members of all cultures."

In 1948, former President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order integrating the armed forces long before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination and segregation, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which cleared many hurdles to voting, were enacted.

Even after the services were integrated, there were a number of racial incidents

around the military in the late 1960s and early 1970s. To address these civil rights issues, the secretary of defense formed the Inter-Service Task Force on Education in Race Relations in January 1970.

The task force recognized that "the armed forces have a race problem because the nation has a race problem." It then based its recommendations for the improvement of race relations on four key assumptions:

■ Mission effectiveness is adversely affected by racial tensions and conflicts;

■ The need exists for improvement of race relations at all levels of the Department of Defense;

■ Education is a key factor in solving the race relations problem; and

■ The approved race relations education program will receive total commitment at all levels of command.

Today the Air Force is a leader in the improvement of race relations through the efforts of military equal opportunity offices at bases around the world, but that is not enough, according to Maj. Patricia A. Leslie, 325 FW military equal opportunity chief.

"Every airman has the ability to positively affect the racial climate of the Air Force," she said. "From the airman basic graduating basic training to our Air Force leaders in the Pentagon, we can all do our part by treating

each other with respect and dignity while we serve our nation."

This service to our nation and each other ties directly into the words in this year's theme, "Remember, Celebrate, Act: A Day On, Not A Day Off," and embodies the Air Force's core value of service before self and the words of Rev. King.

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve," Rev. King said. "You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. And you can be that servant."

(Courtesy AETCNS)

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic

-Saturday Vigil Mass  
5 p.m.

-Sunday Mass 9:30  
a.m.

-Confession by ap-  
pointment.

-Choir 6 p.m. Thurs-  
days.

-CCD 11 a.m., Religious  
Education Building.

-Little Rock Scripture  
Study 11 a.m. Sunday in  
Chapel Fellowship Hall.

### Jewish

Max Stool, call 775-4519.

### Muslim

Dr. Mostafa Salama, call  
768-9200.

### Protestant

-General worship 11  
a.m.

- Women's Bible  
Study, 12:30-2:15 p.m.  
Wednesday at Chapel.

Student Wives Fellow-  
ship 7-9 p.m. Monday;  
call 298-7365.

-Sunday school, 9:30  
a.m. at the Religious  
Education Bldg.

-Choir, 7 p.m. Wednes-  
day at Chapel

### Chapel Youth Group

-Sunday, 5 p.m. Chapel  
Fellowship Hall

## Chapel staff

### Chaplains

Maj. C. Jeffery Swanson  
Maj. Frank Hamilton  
Capt. Larry Bailey  
Capt. Richard Black

### Chaplains' Assistants

Tech Sgt. Donald Williams  
Senior Airman Diana Beauvais  
Airman 1st Class  
Christina Deutsch

The Base Chapel will host a  
Martin Luther King, Jr. service at  
11 a.m. at the Base Chapel Sun-  
day.

The guest speaker for the  
event is Bishop McKinley Young.  
For more information, call  
the Base Chapel at 5111.

*"God loves you and we do too."  
For more information on chapel events and  
services, call 5111.*

## **'Buy,' from page 11**

the item is received.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, Internet auction fraud has become a significant problem. Most consumer complaints center on sellers who:

- Don't deliver the advertised goods; deliver something far less valuable than they advertised;
- Don't deliver in a timely way; or fail to disclose all the relevant information about the product or terms of the sale.
- Check how the auction works. Don't assume that the rules used by one Internet auction site apply to another. Some sites offer step-by-step tutorials that take potential buyers through the bidding process. Taking a few minutes to go through the tutorial might save you frustration or disappointment later. After you receive an e-mail with news that you've "won" an auction, arrange to pay for your purchase. Pay with a credit card, if possible, but it's likely that the seller will require payment by certified check or money order.

If you're not comfortable sending a certified check or money order to the seller, consider using an escrow service or paying for your item cash on delivery.

If you run into a problem during your transaction, try to work it out directly with the seller or with the auction web site. If that doesn't work, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by calling toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357).

Sellers are prohibited from placing "shill" bids or false testimonials. Some sellers improperly create a fake identity and bid on their own auctions to drive up the offers. Likewise, some sellers place glowing testimonials about themselves in the comment section of Internet auction sites. These practices are not only unethical, they're also fraudulent.

After the auction closes, sellers are required to ship the merchandise within the time frame designated during the auction or, if no time frame is specified, within 30 days. If you can't meet the shipping commitment, you must give the buyer an opportunity to cancel the order for a full refund or agree to the new shipping date.

Anticipate questions buyers might have and try to answer them in the description of your item or service. When possible, include a photograph of the item. The saying about a picture being worth 1,000 words rings especially true in Internet auctions.

If a bidder asks a question about the item you're selling or the sales terms, respond as quickly as possible.

When the auction closes, print all the information about the transaction, making a note of the buyer's identification, the description of the item and the time, date and price of the bid. Print and save a copy of every e-mail you send and receive from the auction site or successful bidder.

If you run into a problem during your transaction, try to work it out directly with the buyer or the auction web site. If that doesn't work, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission or the Texas Attorney General.

For any legal questions you may have, call the legal office at 298-5172. The legal office has walk-in legal assistance from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, and from 8 to 9 a.m. Thursdays.

## **Fraud, Waste and Abuse**

Preventing Fraud, Waste and Abuse is everyone's job! If you know or suspect FWA, call the FWA hotline, 298-4170.

Falcons outlast  
Fresno State

By Master Sgt. Jim Greeley  
Air Force Print News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — After blasting off early, the Air Force Academy barely avoided crashing and burning New Year’s Eve, surviving a Fresno State comeback to win the inaugural Silicon Valley Football Classic 37-34.

The Silicon Classic was a tale of two halves.

The Falcons dominated Fresno State in the first half, racking up 34 points and 319 yards. The team scored on its first five possessions and broke or tied five school records in the process.

Tough defense and a near flawless offensive performance put the Falcons on the way to a rout. Or so it looked.

But instead of rolling over, the Bulldogs shut down the Falcons in the second half. Fresno State, a team known for its quick strike offense, managed just 130 passing yards in the first half. In contrast, however, it’s sputtering offense started to click in the second half. Junior quarterback David Carr caught fire for the Bulldogs and threw for 261 yards and four touchdowns in the second half.

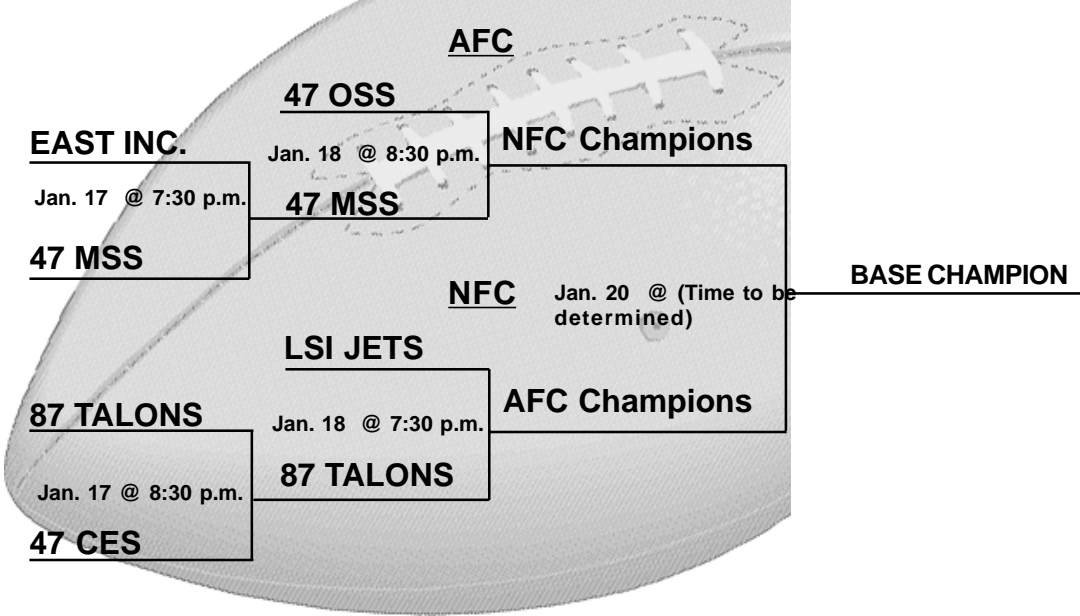
The win capped a 9-3 season for the Falcon’s that the team wrapped up with a four-game winning streak.

The game’s offensive Most Valuable Player was Falcon quarterback Mike Thiessen. In his final game for the Air Force Academy, Thiessen ran for 99 yards and two touchdowns and threw for 204 yards and two touchdowns. He was one rushing yard shy of becoming the first Falcon to run for 100 yards and pass for 200 hundred in a game.

Laughlin’s NFL: Gridiron Gurus

PLAYERS	Bruce Bond	Eric Linneman	Diane Bond	Michael Houston	Amanda Stewart
POINTS FOR REGULAR SEASON FINISH	5	5	3	2	1
INDIANAPOLIS@MIAMI	MIA	MIA	MIA	IND	IND
DENVER@BALTIMORE	BAL	BAL	BAL	DEN	BAL
ST. LOUIS@NEW ORLEANS	STL	STL	N.O.	STL	STL
TAMPA BAY@PHILADELPHIA	PHI	T.B.	PHI	T.B.	T.B.
FIRST ROUND POINTS (10 points per game)	30	20	40	0	10
INDIANAPOLIS/MIAMI@OAKLAND	MIA	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK
DENVER/BALTIMORE@TENNESSEE	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN
ST LOUIS/NEW ORLEANS@MINNESOTA	STL	MIN	N.O.	MIN	STL
TAMPA BAY/PHILADELPHIA@N.Y. GIANTS	PHI	NYG	PHI	NYG	T.B.
SECOND ROUND POINTS (15 points per game)	0	45	15	45	15
NFC CHAMPION	TEN	OAK	TEN	TEN	TEN
AFC CHAMPION	STL	MIN	N.O.	MIN	STL
CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS (20 points per game)					
SUPER BOWL CHAMPION	STL	OAK	N.O.	TEN	TEN
SUPER BOWL POINTS (60 points)					
TOTAL					

2000-2001 Flag Football Playoffs



## Laughlin history

**Q:** The first class of women pilot candidates entered UPT at Williams AFB Sept. 29, 1976. When did Laughlin receive its first female student?

- (a) 1978.
- (b) 1979.
- (c) 1980.

The first female pilot, 2nd Lt. Kimberly D. Baird, was a member of Class 81-03, entering in February 1980. Laughlin's first female instructor pilot, 2nd Lt. Cyndhi Hughes, also arrived in 1980, joining the 85th FTS in July 1980.

## TAP seminar

A Transition Assistance Program seminar is scheduled for Jan. 23-25 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Club XL.

To make an appointment, or for more information, call 5620.

## Med Group closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for training from 1-5 p.m. Thursday.

The Family Practice Clinic will not operate sick call hours in the afternoon. Aerospace Medicine will operate sick call hours from 1-2 p.m.

If you have an emergency, contact the ambulance services at 6333.

For more information or concerns, contact Staff Sgt. Julie Pritchard at 298-6385.

## MLK luncheon

A Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. remembrance luncheon is scheduled today at 11:30 a.m. at Club XL. The ticket cost for the event is \$7.

For more information, or to reserve a seat, call 298-6443.

## Supply block training

Supply block training for January will be conducted on the dates and times listed below. If you have personnel who need to attend, call Steve Rosalez at 4225. Seating is limited, so call early.

**Block I:** Supply general orientation, Tuesday, 9-10 a.m.

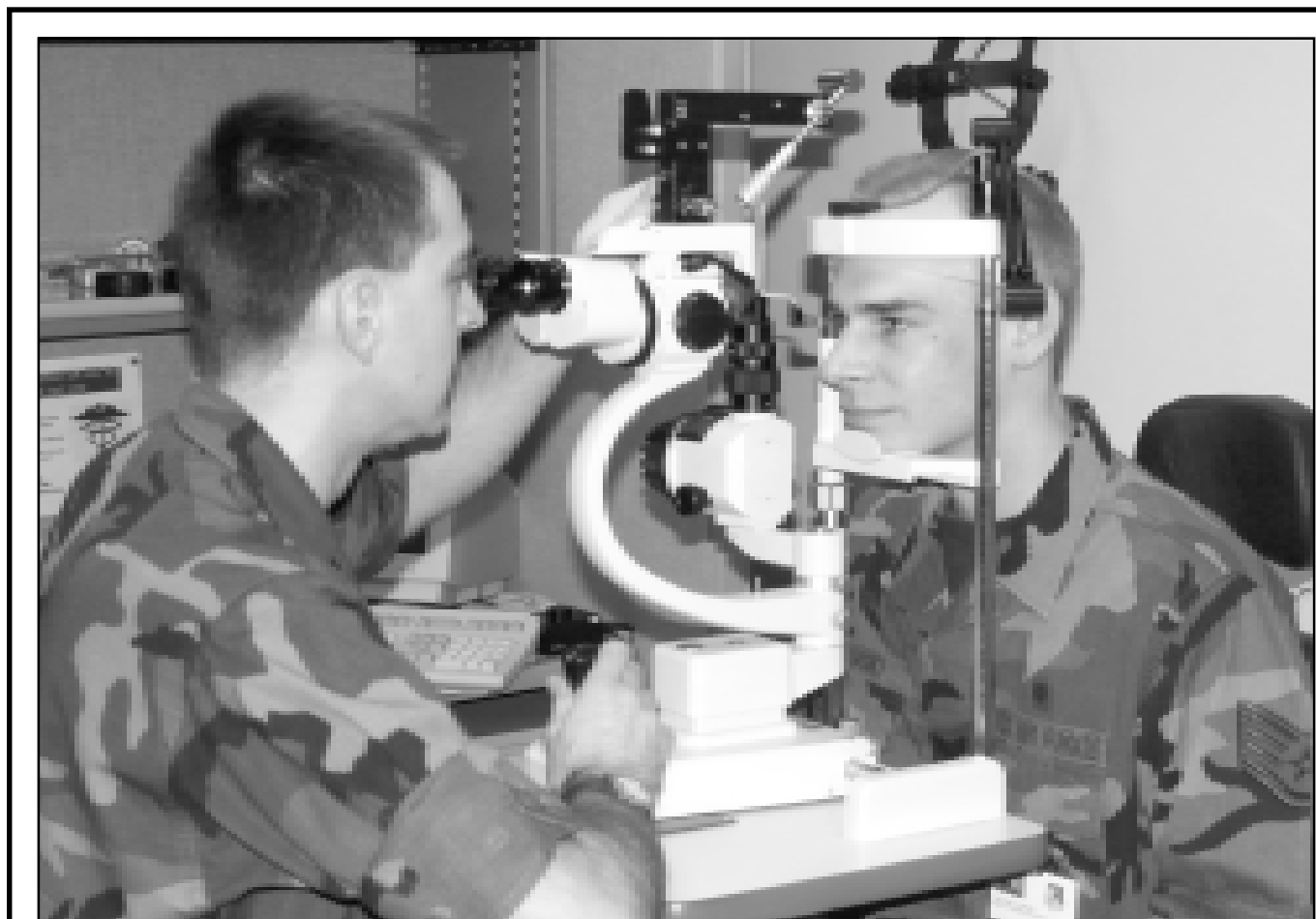


Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

## Let's see

Capt. John Mileski, base optometry clinic, checks Staff Sgt. Daniel Grabski, immunizations office, for signs of Glaucoma. Preventative measures are encouraged to help

diagnose early signs of Glaucoma during National Glaucoma Month, which lasts throughout January. To schedule an eye exam or for more information, call 6428.

**Block IIA:** Bench stock management Jan. 22, 9-11 a.m.

**Block III:** Equipment management, Jan. 24, 9-11 a.m.

**Block IIB:** Repair cycle management, Jan. 25, 9-10 a.m.

## MLK service

The base chapel will host a Martin Luther King, Jr. service at 11 a.m. at the Base Chapel Sunday.

The guest speaker for the event is Bishop McKinley Young.

For more information about this service, call the Base Chapel at 5111.

## Veterans meeting

Military members, retirees and their families are invited to learn about veteran's benefits and programs they may qualify for during a special presentation in Del Rio.

Lois Reyes is a trained veteran's affairs service officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. She will

present a briefing from 1-4 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8552, located at 1307 East 1st St.

VFW Post 8552, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 53 and the Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post 298 sponsor this program. It explains the many programs and benefits available for veterans and how to apply for them.

No reservations are necessary to attend this function. All current military members are invited to attend and learn about benefits they may qualify for as a result their military service.

## Trash pick up

Military family housing and mobile home park residents: The method of surveillance for refuse and recycling pick up in your area is customer complaint.

Branches, leaves or grass clipping

are picked up from the curbside the first and third Mondays of each month by the grounds contractor.

Also, Christmas trees and all compost material will be picked up Tuesday due to the Martin Luther King holiday. If you miss this compost pick up Tuesday, the next pick up will be Feb. 5.

For more information, call Patricia Lunn at 298-5247.

## Commissary closure

The base commissary will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday, but will be open Tuesday.

For normal hours, call 5815.

## Environmental facts

All personnel potentially exposed to hazardous materials are required to receive training prior to engaging in hazardous materials management activities.